

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

storing a most-recent episode of a series of digital content published at a first time in a playback device, wherein the episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time;

BI automatically selecting a subsequent episode of the series of the digital content published at a second time, wherein the subsequent episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time; and

storing the subsequent episode in the playback device.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the predetermined playback time is approximately equal to a maximum playback time designated by the user for the particular digital content.


34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

storing a first subset of digital content;

consuming a portion of the first subset of digital content; and

automatically selecting a second subset of digital content to update the consumed portion of the first subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

35. (Previously Presented) A network comprising:

 a server device to store digital content and to provide the digital content to other devices on the network;

a data retrieval device coupled with the server device; and

a playback device to store and to playback the digital content coupled with the data retrieval device, the playback device to store a most-recent episode of a series of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a subsequent episode of the series of digital content to store on the playback device.

36. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the server device is to automatically push the subsequent episode of the series of digital content to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

37. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the data retrieval device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

38. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 wherein the playback device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

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39. (Previously Presented) The network of claim 35 further comprising the playback device to store a first subset of digital content, to consume a portion of the first subset of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a second subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

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40. (New) A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;
storing in the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; and
storing a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are

automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular audio content.

42. (New) The method of claim 41 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

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43. (New) The method of claim 40 wherein the step of storing a subset of the media content further comprises:

determining a selected segment length;


determining a selected particular media content; and

storing a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device having a length of the selected segment length.

44. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content comprises automatically storing a most recent segment from a series of audio content having multiple segments.

45. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the media content further comprises:

- selecting a segment of the media content;
- storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;
- determining an amount of the portion of the media content consumed, if any; and
- storing a subsequent portion of the media content corresponding to the amount of the portion of media content consumed in the playback device.



46. (New) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

- means for retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;
- means for storing in the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback;
- and
- means for storing a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.


47. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content comprises means for automatically storing a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular content.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the segment is selectable by the user.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 46 wherein the means for storing a subset of the content further comprises:

means for determining a selected segment length;

means for determining a selected particular content; and

 means for storing a segment of the selected particular content in the playback device having a length of the selected segment length.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content includes means for automatically storing a most recent segment in a static content.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the means for storing a subset of the content further comprises:

means for selecting a static content;

means for storing a portion of the static content in a playback device;

means for determining an amount of the portion of the static content consumed, if any; and

means for storing a subsequent portion of the static content corresponding to the amount of the portion of static content consumed in the playback device.

52. (New) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions including sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors cause an electronic device to:

retrieve multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;

store in the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; and

store a subset of one or more of the multiple titles of media content in a playback device, wherein the subsets of the multiple titles of media content are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

53. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to automatically store a most recent segment of a dynamically changing particular media content.

54. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to:

determine a selected segment length;

determine a selected particular media content; and
store a segment of the selected particular media content in the playback device
having a length of the selected segment length.

55. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to automatically store a most recent segment in a static media content.

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56. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to:


select a static media content;
store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;
determining an amount of the portion of the static media content consumed, if
any; and
store a subsequent portion of the static media content corresponding to the amount
of the portion of static media content consumed in the playback device.

57. (New) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:
a library access device to provide access to a library;

a storage device coupled to the library access device to store content retrieved from the library; and

a playback device having a memory and an interface coupled to the storage device;

wherein the playback device stores a selected content that is a subset of the content stored by the storage device, and further wherein the selected content is determined automatically based on predetermined user content selections.

 58. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is a personal computer.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is an Internet terminal.

60. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the library access device is a dedicated audio library access device.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 57 wherein the storage device is a magnetic disk.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the storage device is an optical disc.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the storage device is a flash memory.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the playback device memory comprises flash memory.

65. (New) A playback device comprising:
a memory to store digital content;
circuitry, coupled to the memory, to maintain multiple content counters, wherein the content counters indicate a current location of consumption for corresponding digital content.

66. (New) The playback device of claim 65 wherein digital content corresponding to the respective content counters is updated based, at least in part, on the respective content counters.

67. (New) The playback device of claim 65 further comprising an interface coupled to the memory, the interface to receive digital content from a remote source.

68. (New) A method for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

storing digital content including portions of multiple content files for subsequent playback;

storing at least a subset of the portions of multiple content files in a playback device, wherein data from a first content file is stored in a first portion of memory and data from a second content file is stored a second portion of memory; and

storing data from the second content file in the first portion of memory when data from the first content file stored in the first portion of memory is consumed.

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69. (New) The method of claim 68 wherein storing data from the second content file in the first portion of memory is performed automatically based, at least in part, on consumption of the subset of the first content file.

70. (New) A method for providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

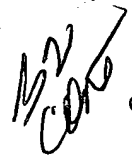
retrieving digital media content from a library, said library residing on a distributable mass storage medium;

storing the digital media content for subsequent playback; and

storing a subset of the digital media content in a playback device, wherein the subset of digital media content is automatically selected to update consumed digital media content according to a user's predetermined specifications.

71. (New) A playback device comprising:

a memory to store digital content;

 circuitry, coupled to the memory, to maintain a content counter, wherein the content counter indicates a current location of consumption for corresponding digital content.
